

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /105 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.:KAM

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.

ARA/ECP:MDAVILA

STR:AWOLFF

COMM:BASCHER

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R 100206Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS STATE 171162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AR

SUBJECT: SPECIALTY STEEL

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4440

1. U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A LICENSING PROGRAM FOR U.S. IMPORTERS UNDER SPECIALTY STEEL IMPORT RESTRAINT PROGRAM AS SUGGESTED BY ARGENTINE PROPOSAL. WE REALIZE THAT THE BASKET CATEGORY FOR SMALL SUPPLIERS WILL RESULT IN SOME UNCERTAINTY AND WE HOPE TO OVERCOME THIS, IN PART, BY PUBLISHING STATISTICS ON SPECIALTY STEEL IMPORTS ON A MONTHLY BASIS. IN ADDITION, QUOTAS IMPOSED HAVE A BUILT-IN SPACING FEATURE WHICH PROVIDES THAT NO MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE QUOTA FOR ANY CATEGORY CAN BE SHIPPED DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF ANY QUOTA YEAR.

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2. DESPITE UNCERTAINTIES OF BASKET QUOTAS, WE BELIEVE IT PROVIDES GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO ARGENTINA THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE ON A STRAIGHT COUNTRY QUOTA SYSTEM. A COUNTRY QUOTA SYSTEM FOR ARGENTINA USING THE 1971-75 BASE PERIOD WOULD NOT HAVE PROVIDED A VERY ATTRACTIVE MARKET SHARE. WE ASSUME ARGENTINA WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BASKET QUOTA TO SHIP IN THOSE AREAS WHERE IT IS MOST COMPETITIVE. KISSINGER

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